AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method for routing a service request in a telecommunication system towards a destination user, the method comprising the steps of:

a) storing a collection of identifiers related to a first identifier assigned to said user;

b) receiving a service request that comprises said first identifier;

c) obtaining a plurality of identifiers among said collection of identifiers;

d) selecting a second identifier among said plurality of identifiers; and

e) routing said service request according to said selected second identifier;

~~the method characterized in that:~~ wherein

at least one identifier among said plurality of identifiers stored in step a) has a format that comprises a user-name portion and a domain-name portion, wherein the user-name portion contains said first identifier; and

in step d) said second identifier is selected having a format comprising a user-name portion and a domain-name portion, wherein said user-name portion contains said first identifier.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the step c) further comprises the steps of:

c1) sending a query to a database that contains said collection of identifiers related to said first identifier, said query comprising the content of the first identifier;

c2) receiving a response to said query that comprises a plurality of identifiers among said collection of identifiers.

3.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claims 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said first identifier is a E.164 number and said second identifier is a Uniform Resource Locator for Session Initiation Protocol.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 3, wherein said second identifier contains number portability information.

5.   (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for routing a service request in a telecommunication system, the apparatus comprising:

communication means arranged for receiving a service request towards a destination user, said service request comprising a first identifier assigned to said destination user;

processing means arranged for obtaining a plurality of identifiers related to said first identifier and for selecting a second identifier among said plurality of identifiers; and

routing means arranged to route said service request according to said selected second identifier;

~~the apparatus characterized in that:~~ wherein

said processing means are arranged to select a second identifier among said plurality of identifiers having a format that comprises a user-name portion and a domain-name portion, wherein said user-name portion contains said first identifier.

6.   (Currently Amended)   A system for routing a service request in a telecommunication system, the system comprising:

a data base, in charge of storing a collection of identifiers related to a first identifier associated to a user; and

a serving node of said telecommunication system in charge of receiving a service request towards a destination user and further routing said service request;

said data base being arranged to receive a query comprising the content of said first identifier, and to answer said query with a plurality of identifiers among said collection of identifiers;

said serving node being arranged for querying said data base upon reception of a service request that comprises said first identifier, and further routing said service request according to an identifier selected among said plurality of identifiers;

~~the system characterized in that:~~ <u>wherein</u>

said serving node is further arranged for routing service request according to an identifier selected among said plurality of identifiers that has a format comprising a user-name portion and a domain-name portion, wherein said user-name portion contains said first identifier.

7.   (Original)   The system of claim 6, wherein said first identifier is a E.164 number and said second identifier is a Uniform Resource Locator for Session Initiation Protocol.

8.   (Original)   The system of claim 7, wherein said wherein said second identifier contains number portability information.